

Response to OA of November 7, 2003
Ser. No. 10/068,765

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below.

In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. A status identifier is provided for each claim in a
5 parenthetical expression following each claim number. Changes to the claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

Claim History Summary:

Claims 1-30 were originally filed.

10 An Office Action dated September 22, 2003 subjected claims 1-30 to a restriction and/or election requirement.

A response by Applicant filed October 23, 2003 elected Group I, claims 1-21 and withdrew Group II claims 22-30. Applicant further made a provisional election of the species of Figure 10 for Group I claims 1-16 and 18-21.

15 An Office Action dated November 7, 2003 noted withdrawal of claims 17 and 22-30. In addition, the Office further withdrew claims 14-16 and 20-21.

Claims 1-13 and 18-19 are pending.

Claim Summary of Present Response:

Claims 1, 6-10, 12 and 18 are currently amended.

20 Claims 4, 5 and 11 are cancelled.

Accordingly, claims 1-3, 6-10, 12-13 and 18-19 are pending.

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Detailed Listing of All Claims 1-30:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A heat exchanger comprising:

- a. a core having a thermally variable size; and
- 5 b. a support structure connected to the core, wherein the support structure comprises a tie rod having a planar section that thermally deforms to accommodate variations in the size of the core.

Claim 2 (Original): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the support
10 structure thermally deforms at a rate at least similar to a rate of change in the size of the core.

Claim 3 (Original): The heat exchanger of Claim 1, wherein the support
15 structure thermally deforms substantially the same amount as the thermal variation in the core size.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 5~~1~~, wherein the
20 planar section of the tie rod thermally deforms at a rate so that the deformation of the support structure is substantially the same as the thermal variation in the core size.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 4~~1~~, wherein the
25 ~~thermally deformable member~~ support structure comprises a plurality of tie rods, wherein each tie rod has a planar section.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 6~~1~~, wherein the planar section is substantially aligned with a flow passing the planar section.

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Claim 9 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 8~~1~~, wherein the support structure further comprises a first strongback and a second strongback positioned about the core, wherein the tie rod is connected between the first
5 and second strongbacks.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A heat exchanger comprising:
a. a core having a first end and an opposing second end; and
b. a support structure, wherein the core is received by the
10 support structure, wherein the support structure comprises:
i. a first strongback adjacent to the first end of the core;
ii. a second strongback adjacent the second end of the
core; and
iii. a ~~variable thickness~~ tie rod having a planar section
15 mounted between the first strongback and the second strongback and capable
of applying a compressive load to the strongbacks.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

20 Claim 12 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 10, wherein the ~~variable thickness~~ tie rod further comprises a center section and a first end, wherein the center section has a center section thickness, wherein the first end has a first end thickness, and wherein the first end thickness is greater than the center section thickness.

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Claim 13 (Original): The heat exchanger of Claim 12, wherein the tie rod further comprises a set of threads at the first end.

Claims 14-17 (Withdrawn).

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Claim 18 (Currently amended): The heat exchanger of Claim 12, wherein the ~~variable thickness~~ tie rod further comprises a second end opposing the first end, wherein the second end has a second end thickness, and wherein the second end thickness is greater than the center section thickness.

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Claim 19 (Original): The heat exchanger of Claim 18, wherein the tie rod further comprises a set of first threads at the first end and a set of second threads at the second end.

10 Claims 20-30 (Withdrawn).